

12 February 1946

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

MEMORANDUM FOR REAR ADMIRAL SIDNEY W. SOUERS,

SUBJECT: Monitoring of Foreign Propaganda Broadcasts

1. During December 1945 the War Department was informed that the Federal Communications Commission was in process of liquidating its Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service (FBIS), which monitored press and propaganda broadcasts of foreign powers. Although systematic coverage of foreign propaganda broadcasts was believed primarily the concern of the State Department, it was also valuable as an auxiliary activity to the intelligence functions of the War and Navy Departments. Other Government agencies were served by the product of the FBIS. Therefore, as an interim measure only, pending any program the State Department might initiate, the War Department expanded its monitoring program to meet the need arising from the liquidation of FBIS (Tab A).

2. The War Department, with the approval of the Federal Communications Commission (Tab B), accordingly employed former FBIS personnel and placed them on the War Department payroll effective 30 December 1945; and all FBIS facilities, including those held by lease or contract, were acquired by the War Department on loan or by transfer. The War Department arranged for the renegotiation of outstanding leases and contracts, which now constitute a charge against its current operating expenses. Pending detailed arrangements, it acquired by loan fixed facilities and equipment owned by Federal Communications Commission necessary to continued FBIS operations. See Tab C for the functional organization of FBIS.

3. It is inappropriate and outside of the scope of its responsibilities for the War Department to continue monitoring foreign press and propaganda broadcasts beyond the fiscal year 1946 (June 30, 1946). Another Government agency should be prepared to continue the FBIS function after that date. It is therefore proposed that the Director of Central Intelligence assume responsibility for the proper disposition of the FBIS and its related Central Intelligence functions and make the necessary recommendations to the National Intelligence Authority with a view to determining the most appropriate Government Agency to monitor foreign propaganda broadcasts on a continuing basis. It is recommended that the War and Navy Departments be informed as early as practicable as to the ultimate disposition of FBIS.

HOYT S. VANDENBERG
Lieutenant General, GSC
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2

3 Incls:

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| 1. Tab A | } Copy of this memo, together with the 3 enclosures forwarded to Information Branch 12 March. |
| 2. Tab B | |
| 3. Tab C | |
- Also forwarded to Information Branch copy of memo from _____ to Secy, NIA dated 20 Feb.

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